

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /078 W
-----022921 050334Z /61/50

O R 031811Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8246
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T BONN 08268

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET UNION-FRG COMMUNIQUE ON MBFR

1. FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER, AMBASSADOR FRED RUTH, TODAY BRIEFED NATO REPRESENTATIVES HERE ON THE PART OF THE FRG/SOVIET COMMUNIQUE REGARDING MBFR.
2. RUTH STRESSED, AT THE BEGINNING AS AT THE END OF HIS PRESENTATION, THAT THE GERMAN PURPOSE IN DISCUSSING MBFR WITH BREZHNEV WOULD BE TO USE THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS IN ORDER TO ADVANCE MULTILATERAL ALLIANCE POSITIONS. HE STRESSED THAT THE FRG WOULD SPEAK ON THE BASIS OF AGREED ALLIANCE VIEWS.

3. RUTH PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS THE CURRENTLY PROSPECTIVE MBFR PORTION OF THE PLANNED SOVIET/GERMAN
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COMMUNIQUE:

BEGIN TEXT

REGARDING FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, BOTH SIDES CONFIRM THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS IS TO REACH, ON THE BASIS OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY OF THE

PARTICIPANTS, A MORE STABLE SITUATION AT A LOWER MILITARY LEVEL THAN THE PRESENT ONE. BOTH SIDES AGAIN AFFIRM THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED, AS APPROPRIATE, TO TAKE PART WITH THEIR ARMED FORCES IN REDUCTIONS BY THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODALITIES THAT ARE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN VIENNA.

4. BY THESE NEGOTIATION AND RESULTS, AS BY THE FURTHER APPLICATION OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN EUROPE, THE EXISTING MISTRUST AND THE DANGER OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION COULD BE DIMINISHED AND THE SECURITY OF ALL BE REINFORCED IN THE VIEWS OF BOTH SIDES. END TEXT.

5. IN EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT, RUTH CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WERE LISTED COLLECTIVELY AND THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE PLEDGED TO "TAKE PART" IN REDUCTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF GERMAN INSISTENCE IN THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVITY. HE SAID THE SECOND SENTENCE REFLECTED DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE NEW NATO INITIATIVE IN VIENNA. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, BY ITS REFERENCE TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, THAT PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD UNDERLINE THE GERMAN VIEW THAT REDUCTIONS ARE AN ALLIANCE RATHER THAN A BILATERAL MATTER.

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6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, RUTH SAID SUCH MATTERS AS THE DATA EXCHANGE, THE SS-20'S, THE ERW, THE BACKFIRE, OR OTHER MATTERS OF MILITARY SECURITY IN EUROPE WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONVERSATIONS RATHER THAN IN THE COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID HE WOULD LET THE ALLIES KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT ANY REFERENCE TO GRAY AREA SYSTEMS WOULD NOT BE IN A NEGOTIATING CONTEXT BUT MERELY AS PART OF A DISCUSSION OF THE EUROPEAN MILITARY SITUATION.

7. RUTH SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS TO BRIEF THE ALLIES AND NOT TO INVITE REACTIONS. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN THE TEXT WHICH HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY AGREED ON AN AD REF BASIS. CERTAINLY, HE ADDED, ANY CHANGES THAT WERE MADE WOULD NOT DEPART FROM THE PRINCIPLES THAT HE HAD ANNOUNCED. STOESEL

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